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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

A DEMOGRAPHY OF DELINQUENCY: AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND JUDICIAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM OF DELINQUENCY IN IOWA IN TIME AND IN SPACE. By *Walter A. Lunden*. Ames, Iowa: Student Supply Store, 1956.

The author analyzes the problem of delinquency in Iowa, especially the Juvenile Court Cases from 1940 to 1954, the social background of delinquents, the geography and jurisprudence of delinquency, and judicial geography. The problems of youthful maladjustment or delinquency are reflections of the general changes current in society. By focusing the study in one state, Iowa, it was possible to assemble a mass of data on different facets of delinquency. The increases and decreases in the volume of delinquency from 1940 to 1954 followed somewhat the national trend, except that the increase during the war occurred later and the increase since 1950 was not as pronounced.

Detail statistics of official juvenile court cases are presented showing the types of offenses committed, the composition of the delinquent population, the educational background, intelligence quotient for delinquents and nondelinquents, seasonal variation, and related data. The considerable proportion of the report deals with the geography of delinquency, including delinquency cases by counties, a comparison of rural and urban differences in rates of delinquency and the differential rates in counties with varying degrees of urbanization. The final section deals with the jurisprudence of delinquency, including a detailed description of the police, court, and correctional institutions that deal with juvenile offenders after they have been apprehended, and what policies and principles are followed in treating the delinquent.

On the whole the report gives a comprehensive picture of delinquency in the State of Iowa. The data are presented, for the most part, in graphic form. The analysis indicates how delinquency cases have varied during the years of the Great Depression, World War II,

and in the postwar years. In spite of statistical problems in ascertaining trends in delinquency, the "findings substantiate the principles of gradients, namely, that delinquency fluctuates directly with demographic factors within various sections of a state."

MARTIN H. NEUMEYER

Los Angeles

THE 3 TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE. Edited by *H. Montgomery Hyde*. New York: University Books, 1956. Pp. 384. \$5.00.

Sixty years have elapsed since the brilliant Dublin-born wit and playwright, Oscar Wilde, appeared at the Old Bailey in London for "gross indecencies" with men.

British author and barrister, Montgomery Hyde, has brought together in excellent form the transcripts of the Wilde trials, which are a further contribution to the continuing social problem of homosexuality, and which should throw light in the paths of legislators and judges everywhere.

This book is the first complete account of the three trials. First published in England in 1948, with three reprintings, it is now being published in America. There is a foreword by Travers Humphreys, Wilde's junior counsel and the lone surviving person who was actively connected with the trials; an introduction by Hyde, outlining the trials and supplying the reader with the necessary background; the proceedings of the trials; and six appendices. Appendix F, for example, tells of the known prevalence of homosexuality in England since the 11th Century.

The "gross indecency" law under which Wilde was indicted and convicted applied to homosexual acts committed by men both in private and in public. Strangely, it did not apply to women. Shortly after its passage, it was dubbed "The Blackmailer's Charter," which was very apt, as one will readily agree who reads the proceedings and sees the parade of witnesses lined up against Wilde—unemployed

young men, juvenile delinquents, landladies and chambermaids.

Two opinions in Mr. Hyde's book deserve some criticism. In Appendix E, Hyde states that at no time was there ever the "slightest suggestion of effeminacy" about Wilde. This is a rash statement, for though Wilde may have been of large frame, he had many feminine traits and detested sports, games, and mathematics. The other opinion is not Hyde's but a quotation from the late Lord Atkin, who thought that homosexual impulses, "like other wicked impulses, are capable of being controlled" and "can be checked by advice and by resolution." Observation of the world about us and the experience of the ages, together with scientific evidence, do not confirm such a view. It has been estimated by the late Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey and others that there are approximately 16 million people in the United States who are homosexual, and that they are in all strata of society irrespective of class, race or religion. This being true, homosexuality is surely not a subject to be treated lightly and derisively, as it has been in the past, but with sympathy and understanding. Our own State of Michigan today has on its books a "gross indecency" statute for both male and female homosexuals, which applies to acts committed in private as well as in public, and which is made a felony instead of a misdemeanor, as in the law under which Wilde was convicted. But the American Law Institute, which is drafting a Model Penal Code for submission to legislatures and courts, is expected to make strong recommendations against such laws.

Mr. Hyde's book is a most timely and important one, because it unfolds the tragedy of a great, but misunderstood, man of letters who was virtually crucified for something which not even marriage helped—namely, his sexual deviation.

B. D. HUGGINS, LL.B.

Washington, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF CRIMINAL POLICY,
No. 9, United Nations, New York, 1956.
English and French Sections. Pp. 175. \$1.75.

This is the ninth report by the UN on international criminal policy. It is composed of a

series of articles, special reports, news notes, and a bibliography of current literature. The articles are published in English, French, and Spanish. Whichever language one is reading, a summary is available in the other two.

The international tenor of the articles should be informative and challenging to the American reader. The lack of any real exchange of ideas between European and American criminologists has been obvious for some time, and the work of the UN helps to bridge this gap. This publication affords the reader an excellent opportunity to compare and contrast European and American criminology. European criminologists explain the problem of crime in terms of law, philosophy, and social change, e.g., "in most countries of the region, juvenile delinquency as a problem was of recent origin (industrialization and urbanization)." (p. 91) The American criminologist has been more interested in the psychology of the criminal act, e.g., "the psychological definition of the delinquent act lies in the consideration of the motivation of the act." (p. 75) The emphasis placed on social structure is evident from the topics discussed: economic changes and labor conditions, education and delinquency, urbanization and industrialization.

An evaluation of the role of education in a delinquency prevention program is made, and it appears that John Dewey now stands as a supplement to, if not as a substitute for, Freud in the field of crime prevention. Dewey's philosophy of education, i.e., educate the total child and adjust the child to his environment, has influenced penologists and social workers to the point where "the cure of delinquency is a matter of remedial education and environmental modification rather than of psychotherapy conceived of as individual treatment in a psychiatric clinic." (p. 59) However, it should be noted that Freudian psychology has been shifted from the analytic couch to the guidance clinic, and the school psychologist now stands in the place of the psychiatrist.

The reports on UN activities in the field of crime prevention are well summarized. A bibliography of current literature, foreign as well as English, is included and is a valuable source of reference material. A much better understand-

ing of crime and delinquency at an international level can be achieved through the type of work being done by the UN.

CLARENCE RAY JEFFERY

Southern Illinois University

THE PRISON AT PHILADELPHIA CHERRY HILL.

By *Negley K. Teeters & John D. Shearer.*

Columbia University Press, 1957, pages 234, \$5.50.

From our present day concept of penal reformatories with emphasis on classification, rehabilitation, and individual preparation for release, it is both shocking and refreshing to step back 125 years into an era of penology where complete physical isolation and total silence were accepted as the only truly corrective treatment for law violators. It is a shocking experience because our present-day feelings revolt at the seeming total lack of regard for mental health at Cherry Hill, but it is refreshing too, for the cold contrast of philosophies brings into relief the progress that has occurred in penology in a relatively short span of time.

Messrs. Teeters and Shearer have achieved a scholarly piece of research which makes remarkably exciting reading. Segment by segment they peel back the blanket of time and give the reader a potent taste of the development and management of the prison at Philadelphia. The reader shares the thinking and controversies of the architects, of the Boards of Directors, of the wardens, chaplains, doctors, prisoners, and distinguished visitors associated with this historic institution which had such far-reaching effects on penology all over the world. The manner in which problems were faced and solved in creating a "successful" program of individual isolation at Cherry Hill involved many considerations with which penologists still contend today: political pressures, disinterested and misinformed board members, insufficient monies, and untrained institutional staff.

Teeters and Shearer have compiled their data from existing records, have organized it beautifully, and have presented it in a style which makes the reading very entertaining.

JOHNSON LEVERING

Howard Association, Chicago

DAS MENSCHENBILD UNSERER ZEIT UND DIE STRAFRECHTSREFORM. (The New Notion of Human Nature and the Reform of Criminal Law). By *Hans-Heinrich Jescheck.* J. C. B. Mohr, Tübingen, 1957. Pp. 40.

Professor Jescheck of the University of Freiburg presents a carefully worded exposé of the new German look on human nature and its implications on the future criminal code. Whilst the critic has to wait for the text of the bill, it is plain that the "philosophical" view will prevail, as proved by quotations from Aristotle, St. Paul, Luther, the Pope. Jescheck rejects the ideas of Franz von Liszt, the great German reformer, and Ferri in Italy and calls them outdated. Here we are again. It is 24 years ago that the writer tried to oppose the castigatory primitive impulses based on a similar ideological absolutism.

Professor Jescheck is an able and eloquent advocate of dogmatic concepts that will not meet with the approval of the scientific world. We admire the courage of a champion for an outlearned doctrine and a forlorn hope. The modern ideas on criminal law will not retrace their steps.

HANS VON HENTIG

Bonn

ROLE PLAYING IN LEADERSHIP AND GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING. By *Alan F. Klein.* New York: Association Press, 1956. Pp. xiv + 176. \$3.50.

Association Press has published another volume in its popular (and, alas, popularizing!) series of group work and leadership for the volunteer and the layman "interested" in groups and in the "training in sensitivity to people and situations."

The author, who is Professor of Social Group Work at the University of Pittsburgh, attempts to talk to the layman without talking down to him. There is much useful material in this pocket-size and handsome book, such as how to stimulate discussions, the "casting of characters" in role playing, etc. I found particularly of interest Chapter 4, "The Setting and Action of the Role Play," with its timing and acting, also some of the illustrations meant to "explain"